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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/519,766	03/06/2000	Koichi Hayashi	105619	8583

25944 7590 09/17/2003

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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, MAIKHANH

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2176

DATE MAILED: 09/17/2003

5

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

pre

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/519,766

Applicant(s)

HAYASHI ET AL.

Examiner

Maikhanh Nguyen

Art Unit

2176

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 March 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 3.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to communications: original application filed 03/06/2000; IDS filed 03/06/2000.
2. Claims 1-15 are currently pending in this application. Claims 1-7 and 13-15 are independent claims.

Specification

3. The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because it exceeds the limit of 150 words. Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

4. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claim 3-7 and 13-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 3-7 and 13-15 recite the limitations:

- “a user” (claim 3, line 17) is vague and indefinite.

- “page information” (claim 3, lines 19-20) is vague and indefinite.
- “the hypertext” (claim 3, line 21) lacks antecedent basis.
- “a user” (claim 4, line 22) is vague and indefinite.
- “the requested page information and the space identification information” (claim 4, lines 22-23) lacks antecedent basis.
- “page information” (claim 4, lines 24-25) is vague and indefinite.
- “the hypertext” (claim 4, line 26) lacks antecedent basis.
- “page information” (claim 4, line 11) is vague and indefinite.
- “the user” (claim 5, line 17) lacks antecedent basis.
- “the link group requested” (claim 5, line 25) lacks antecedent basis.
- “the user” (claim 6, line 27) lacks antecedent basis.
- “the link group requested” (claim 6, line 8) lacks antecedent basis.
- “the link group” (claim 6, line 10) lacks antecedent basis.
- “the user” (claim 7, line 11) lacks antecedent basis.
- “the hypertext space” (claim 7, line 12) lacks antecedent basis.
- “the user” (claim 7, line 19) lacks antecedent basis.
- “the extracted link group data” (claim 7, line 1) lacks antecedent basis.
- “the hypertext” (claim 7, line 1) lacks antecedent basis.
- “the whole page information” (claim 7, line 6) lacks antecedent basis.
- “the virtual page” (claim 7, line 9) lacks antecedent basis.
- “the link groups” (claim 7, line 15) lacks antecedent basis.
- “space specific information” (claim 13, lines 20-21) is vague and indefinite.

- "a reference" (claim 13, line 26) is vague and indefinite.
- "a reference" (claim 13, lines 16) is vague and indefinite.
- "a reference" (claim 14, line 2) is vague and indefinite.
- "a user" (claim 14, line 1) is vague and indefinite.
- "the original page information" (claim 14, lines 17-18) lacks antecedent basis.
- "the original page information" (claim 15, line 24) lacks antecedent basis.
- "a user" (claim 15, line 1) is vague and indefinite.
- "page information" (claim 15, line 4) is vague and indefinite.
- "link group data" (claim 15, line 5) is vague and indefinite.
- "the whole page information" (claim 15, lines 10-11) lacks antecedent basis.
- "a reference" (claim 15, lines 14-15) is vague and indefinite.

Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for the purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language; or " (Emphasis added.)

Claims 1-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by **Malik et al.** (U.S. 6,023,701 – filed 09/1997).

As to independent claim 5, Malik teaches (abstract) an apparatus for providing a specific access space (*The user may then select*) that specifies a specific path (*the most appropriate hyperlink or path*) to the user (*the user*) who searches (*search*) a hyperlink (*hyperlink*) in a hypertext space (*an Internet*), composed of mutual link (*hyperlinks*) relation between one or more hypertexts provided by one or more servers (*an Internet or web network*), comprising:

- first means for grouping one or more links that refer to page information and managing the grouped links as link group data (*the network assembles only the available hyperlinks for presentation to the user... selectively assembling and displaying listings of only hyperlinks of designated target pages rather than entire page presentations*; col.2, lines 27-47); and

- second means for applying a requested process to each link included in the link group requested to be processed (*The user may then select from the presented hyperlinks, the most appropriate hyperlink or path in pursuit of the user's particular search goals*; col.2, lines 27-47).

Independent claim 6, the rejection of independent claim 5 above is incorporated herein in full. However, claim 6 further recites “third means for registering information relative to the link group at the first means.”

Malik teaches third means for registering information relative to the link group at the first means (*several new selections have been added to the basic bookmark sub-menu*; col.5, lines 31-54).

As to independent claim 1, the rejection of independent claim 5 above is incorporated herein in full. However, claim 1 recites:

- first means for adding space identification information to specific information for each user relative to page information and managing it in correlation with a reference to the page information;

- second means for taking specific information corresponding to requested page information out of the first means and adding it to the page information; and

- third means for replacing the reference included in the page information with the space identification information.

Malik teaches:

- first means for adding space identification information to specific information for each user relative to page information and managing it in correlation with a reference to the page information (*ADD BOOKMARK; col.5, lines 31-54*).

- second means for taking specific information corresponding to requested page information out of the first means and adding it to the page information (*the user may click on the bookmark menu to show sites previously visited and marked; col.5, lines 31-67*); and

- third means for replacing the reference included in the page information with the space identification information (*A user may also select to create a folder from the submenu 413... The folder would create a reference in the listing of bookmarks; col.6, lines 22-44*).

Independent claim 2, the rejection of independent claim 1 above is incorporated herein in full. However, claim 2 further recites “ fourth means for registering the specific information relative to the page information at the first means.”

Malik teaches fourth means for registering the specific information relative to the page information at the first means (*several new selections have been added to the basic bookmark sub-menu; col.5, lines 31-54/ A user may also select to create a folder from the submenu 413... The folder would create a reference in the listing of bookmarks; col.6, lines 22-44*).

As to independent claims 3-4, the rejection of independent claims 1 and 5 above are incorporated herein in full. However, claims 3-4 recites: page information synthesized by the specific information addition unit and the space identification information addition unit is provided to the user instead of an original page information referred to by a reference specified by the user.

Malik teaches page information synthesized by the specific information addition unit and the space identification information addition unit is provided to the user instead of an original page information referred to by a reference specified by the user (*when a user doing a search...hypertext and text to be downloaded and displayed; col.5, lines 55-col.6, line21*).

As to independent claim 7, the rejection of independent claims 1 and 5 above are incorporated herein in full. However, claim 7 recites: -a page information synthesis unit that applies the process extracted by the analysis unit to the whole page information referred to by each link included in the link group to synthesize a virtual page, wherein information of the virtual page is provided to the user instead of original page information referred to by each link included in the link group specified by the user.

Malik teaches a page information synthesis unit that applies the process extracted by the analysis unit to the whole page information referred to by each link included in the link group to synthesize a virtual page, wherein information of the virtual page is provided to the user instead

of original page information referred to by each link included in the link group specified by the user *(when a user doing a search...hypertext and text to be downloaded and displayed; col.5, lines 55-col.6, line21)*.

Dependent claim 8, Malik teaches a unit that receives a user's instruction about registration of contents of the link group data, such as the link groups, each link included in each link group, and the process to be applied to each link group or each link included in each link group (col.2, lines 32-47 and col.6, lines 22-44).

Dependent claim 9, Malik teaches the space specific information management unit manages the process to be applied to the link included in the link group in correlation with the link, and the page information synthesis unit applies the process correlated to the link to the page information referred to by the link and then applies the process requested for the link group to the whole link group (col.2, lines 32-47 and col.6, lines 22-44).

Dependent claim 10, Malik teaches a unit that converts the link group or the link correlated to the process to be applied into process component and holds the component (col.6, lines 22-44 and fig.6).

Dependent claim 11, Malik teaches a process component display unit that shows the user the link group or the link that has been converted into the process component as a process component icon (col.6, lines 44).

Dependent claim 12, Malik teaches a hypertext analysis unit that analyzes the page information referred to by the link selected by the user and registers the link group having the link that is included in the page information.

As to independent claims 13-14, the rejection of independent claims 1 and 5 above are incorporated herein in full. However, claims 13-14 recite: f. providing the user with page information synthesized in steps (d) and (e) instead of the original page information referred to by the reference of the original page.

Malik teaches f. providing the user with page information synthesized in steps (d) and (e) instead of the original page information referred to by the reference of the original page (*when a user doing a search...hypertext and text to be downloaded and displayed; col.5, lines 55-col.6, line21*).

As to independent claim 15, the rejection of independent claim 5 above is incorporated herein in full. However, claim 15 recites: d. applying the process extracted in step (a) to the whole page information referred to by each link included in the link group to synthesize a virtual page; and e. providing the user with information of the virtual page instead of original page information referred to by a reference specified by the user.

Malik teaches d. applying the process extracted in step (a) to the whole page information referred to by each link included in the link group to synthesize a virtual page; and e. providing the user with information of the virtual page instead of original page information referred to by a reference specified by the user (*when a user doing a search...hypertext and text to be downloaded and displayed; col.5, lines 55-col.6, line21*).

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Himmel et al.	U.S Patent No. 6,211,871	issue dated: Apr. 3, 2001
Sharma et al.	U.S Patent No. 6,275,862	issue dated: Aug. 14, 2001
Himmel et al.	U.S Patent No. 6,208,995	issue dated: Mar. 27, 2001
Koppolu et al.	U.S Patent No. 6,460,058	issue dated: Oct. 1, 2002
Shoji et al.	U.S Patent No. 6,564,254	issue dated: May 13, 2003
Shoji et al.	U.S Patent No. 6,564,254	issue dated: May 13, 2003
Helfman	U.S Patent No. 6,119,135	issue dated: Sep. 12, 2000
Bertram et al.	U.S Patent No. 6,049,812	issue dated: Apr. 11, 2000

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Maikhanh Nguyen whose telephone number is (703) 306-0092. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday from 9:00am – 5:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph H. Feild can be reached on (703) 305-9792. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 308-5403 for regular communications and (703) 308-5403 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-9600.

Art Unit: 2176

Contact Information:

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Or fax to:

AFTER-FINAL faxes must be signed and sent to (703) 746-7238.

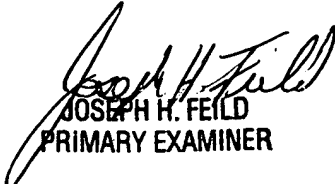
OFFICIAL faxes must be signed and sent to (703) 746-7239.

NON OFFICIAL faxes should be sent to (703) 746-7240.

All OFFICIAL faxes will be handled and entered by the docketing personnel. The date of entry will correspond to the actual FAX reception date unless that date is a Saturday, Sunday, or a Federal Holiday within the District of Columbia, in which case the official date of receipt will be the next business day. The application file will be promptly forwarded to the Examiner unless the application file must be sent to another area of the Office, e.g., Finance Division for fee charging, etc.

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA., Sixth Floor (Receptionist). All hand-delivered responses will be handled and entered by the docketing personnel. Please do not hand deliver responses directly to the Examiner.

Maikhanh Nguyen
September 8, 2003


JOSEPH H. FEILD
PRIMARY EXAMINER